(9) A National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been registered on 24.1.97 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to provide opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on easy terms to the disabled persons to set up self-employment ventures.

Coal mine deposit linked insurance scheme

3804. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid to skilled labour in the event of death while on duty out of coal mine deposit linked insurance scheme;

(b) whether the amount is sufficient in view of the high cost of living today;

(c) whether Government propose to review and enhance the amount of coal mine deposit linked insurance scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (CMDLIS) does not draw any distinction between skilled and unskilled workers. In the event of death of a member of CMDLIS, the legal heirs/nominee of the deceased member are entitled to receive an amount equal to the overall balance in the account of the deceased in the fund during the preceding 3 years subject to maximum of Rs. 10,000/-; provided that the average balance in the account of the deceased employees is not below the sum of Rs. 1000/- at any time during the preceding 3 years.

(b) to (d) A proposal to increase the maximum benefit from Rs. 10,000/- to 25,000/- under certain conditions has been received.

Coal linkage to Gujarat State Electricity Board

3805. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of parameter of quarterly allocation of coal linkage for power projects;

(b) the details of quarterly demand of and allocation to Gujarat State Electricity Board during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been an inadequate coal linkage between the demand and supply of coal during the last three years;

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the future programme for allocation of adequate coal linkage to the Gujarat State Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) makes recommendations for allotment of coal for each coal based power plant on the basis of generation targets fixed for them. The recommendations made by the CEA are considered by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term) which allots coal for each thermal power station on quarterly basis within the overall constraints of availability of coal, transportation, unloading facilities of the power stations and timely payment for coal supplies. The linkages sanctioned and despatches to the power stations of Gujarat Electricity Board(GEB) from Coal India Limited for the last three years are as follows:—

(Figs. in '000 tonnes)
(Data provisional)

Year	Linkage	Despatch
1994-95	13,965	11,342
1995-96	13,425	12,135
1996-97	12,240	12,112

(d) and (e) Coal supplies to power sector in the country including power houses of Gujarat Electricity Board is accorded highest priority. Supply of coal to power sector is monitored regularly by an Inter-Ministerial Group. Appropriate corrective action is taken to step up coal supplies wherever necessary.

The outstanding dues from GEB had mounted and they had not made arrangements to clear even the undisputed dues. As a result, linkages for GEB power houses were restricted to the extent of payments. GEB has been requested to make timely payments so that the supplies are not required to be regulated on account of non payment for coal supplied to them.